

Message Text

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 01 TOKYO 14499 110915Z
ACTION IO-14

INFO OCT-01 EA-10 ISO-00 AF-10 PM-05 NSC-05 SP-02
SS-15 CIAE-00 DODE-00 INR-10 NSAE-00 PA-01 ICA-11
/084 W

-----041307 110921Z /21

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FM AMEMBASSY TOKYO
TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 0305
INFO USMISSION USUN NEW YORK PRIORITY

C O N F I D E N T I A L TOKYO 14499

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: PORG, JA, US, SA, WA
SUBJECT: SONODA LETTER TO SECRETARY

REF: STATE 202384

1. SONODA'S LETTER TO SECRETARY STRIKES US PRIMARILY AS SINCERELY FELT GESTURE IN RECOGNITION OF SIGNIFICANT ACCOMPLISHMENT. IT ALSO REFLECTS VALUE SONODA PLACES ON HIS PERSONAL RELATIONSHIP WITH SECRETARY. WE DO NOT SEE LETTER AS ANOTHER TRIAL BALLOON TO DEVELOP JAPANESE PUBLIC SUPPORT FOR NAMIBIAN OPERATION, SEVERAL HAVING BEEN FLOATED RECENTLY. MOREOVER, ACCORDING TO UN POLITICAL AFFAIRS DIVDIR WATANABE, JAPANESE DO NOT INTEND TO RELEASE LETTER TO PRESS.

2. ON OTHER HAND, WE SUSPECT LETTER ALSO REPRESENTS EFFORT BY UN BUREAU DIRGEN OKAWA TO ENGAGE SONODA MORE DIRECTLY IN MOFA EFFORTS TO DEVELOP BUREAUCRATIC AND POLITICAL SUPPORT FOR PARTICIPATION IN UNTAG. OKAWA MENTIONED DURING MAYNES VISIT THAT SONODA HAD NOT BEEN PARTICULARLY ENTHUSIASTIC ABOUT PROSPECT OF NAMIBIAN INVOLVEMENT. LETTER OF CONGRATULATIONS, IN WHICH FIRM SUPPORT AND READINESS TO COOPERATE ARE PLEDGED, WOULD THUS REPRESENT SMALL BUT CONFIDENTIAL

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SIGNIFICANT STEP FORWARD.

3. WE WOULD SUGGEST THAT OUR RESPONSE TOUCH ONLY INDIRECTLY UPON PROSPECTS FOR JAPANESE PARTICIPATION IN UNTAG, SO AS NOT TO CONFRONT SONODA WITH MORE THAN HE HAS THUS FAR BEEN CONDITIONED TO ACCEPT. ACCORDINGLY, RESPONSE MIGHT:

-- EXPRESS APPRECIATION FOR WARM LETTER OF CONGRATULATIONS.

-- NOTE OUR HOPE THAT NAMIBIAN SETTLEMENT CAN MOVE

-- FORWARD IN ACCORDANCE WITH AGREED PLANS, DESPITE

-- DIFFICULT PROBLEMS AHEAD.

-- TAKE NOTE OF SONODA'S ASSURANCE OF COOPERATION AND
SUPPORT IN THESE EFFORTS, WHICH COULD BE OF GREAT SIGNIFI-
CANCE IN ASSURING ULTIMATE SUCCESS. MANSFIELD

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Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
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